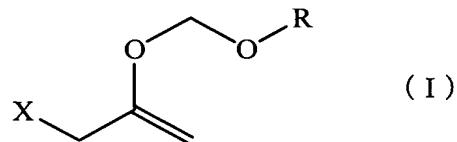


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

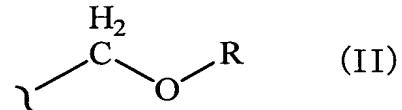
Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of protecting a hydroxyl group, which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing compound with a compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s), and X is a halogen atom,

in the presence of an acid catalyst to substitute the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the hydroxyl group-containing compound with a protecting group represented by the formula (II):



wherein R is as defined above.

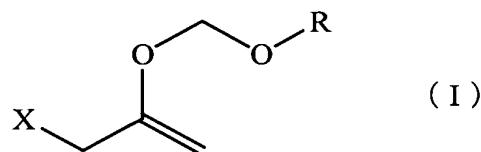
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s).

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R is an alkyl group.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate or p-toluenesulfonic acid.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate.

6. (Currently Amended) A hydroxyl group protecting reagent that is reactive to a hydroxyl group to form a hydroxyl-protecting group which comprises a compound represented by the formula (I):

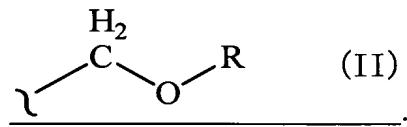


wherein:

R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s)[[,]]; and

X is a halogen atom; and

the hydroxyl-protecting group is represented by formula (II):

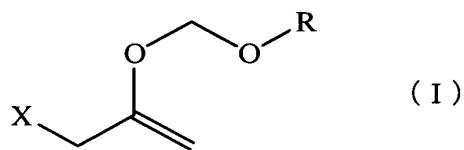


7. (Original) The reagent of claim 6, wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s).

8. (Original) The reagent of claim 7, wherein R is an alkyl group.

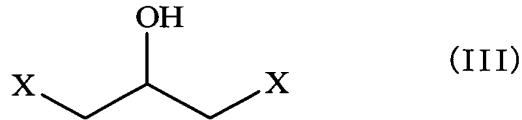
9. (Original) The reagent of claim 8, wherein R is a methyl group.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a compound represented by the formula (I):



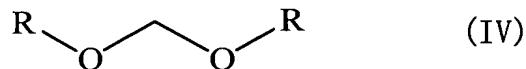
wherein R is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s), and X is F, Br, or I a halogen atom, which comprises the following Step 1 and Step 2;

Step 1: reacting a compound represented by the formula (III):



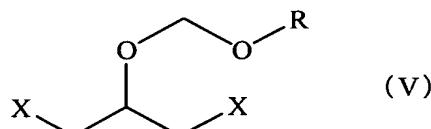
wherein X is as defined above,

with a compound represented by the formula (IV):



wherein R is as defined above,

to give a compound represented by the formula (V):

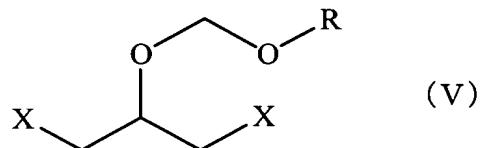


wherein each symbol is as defined above;

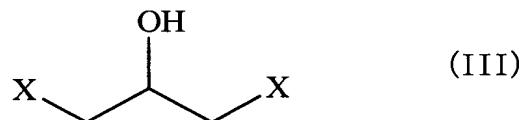
Step 2: reacting the obtained compound represented by the formula (V) in the presence of a base to give a compound represented by the formula (I).

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein R is a methyl group.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a compound represented by the formula (V):

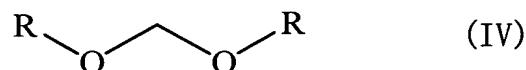


wherein R is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s), and X is F, Br, or I a halogen atom, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula (III):



wherein X is as defined above,

with a compound represented by the formula (IV):



wherein R is as defined above.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R is a methyl group.

14. (New) The reagent of claim 6, further comprising a mild acid.

15. (New) The reagent of claim 14, wherein the mild acid is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate or p-toluenesulfonic acid.